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T. H. C. B. Brown  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s): MACKIEWICH, Blair T. et al.  
Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ROUTING DATA FRAMES**  
Serial No.: 10/026,735  
Filed: 27 December 2001  
Art Unit: 2151

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Missing Parts  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
**DEC 12 2002**  
Technology Center 2100

**VOLUNTARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary to the examination of this application, please amend this application as follows:

**In the Specification**

Replace the second full paragraph on page 5 with the following:

In drawings which illustrate non-limiting embodiments of the invention,

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a bridge according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a flow chart which illustrates a method for forwarding data frames in a bridge having a shared forwarding database;

Figure 3 is a block diagram showing an application of the invention; and

Figure 4 is schematic illustration of an example application of a bridge according to the invention.

**In the Drawings**

Replace the 7 sheets of drawings originally filed with the 3 sheets of replacement drawings enclosed herewith.